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STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/IR, PM/RSAT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/28/2016

TAGS: PREL PTER MOPS BA IR REGION BILAT

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMES GULF SECURITY DIALOGUE

REF: A. MANAMA 1017

1B. STATE 94092

Classified by Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

(S) In a June 25 meeting covering several subjects (septels), the Ambassador presented Ref B Gulf Security Dialogue non-paper to Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and requested his support for launching the dialogue.

The ForMin welcomed the dialogue and said "we are looking forward" to starting quickly. He thought the U.S. side should suggest a date for a visit, but noted that he would be on vacation July 20 through August 10, and MFA Assistant Under Secretary for Coordination and Follow Up Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, who met with the interagency delegation headed by Principle Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Henry and PM A/S Hillen in May, would be on leave from early July through the beginning of August. Shaikh Khalid agreed that the dialogue should begin bilaterally but commented it would be better if the entire GCC was involved. In closing, he said "we are serious" about the dialogue.

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